

MR. WELLS OFFERS TO AID
MR. PARKER IN A CONTEST.Mayor Addresses a Letter to
Defeated Republican Can-
didate Asking for Action.

HE WILL PUT UP \$10,000.

Desires That the Truth or Fal-
sity of Election Fraud
Charges Be Proven
in Court.

The accompanying letter from Mayor Wells to Geo. W. Parker, defeated Republican candidate for Mayor, was delivered at Mr. Parker's residence, No. 444 Westminster place, at 7:30 o'clock Thursday evening by the Mayor's private secretary, James G. McConkey, who had instructions to give to Mr. Parker in person.

In response to the secretary's card, a message was sent down from Mrs. Parker to the effect that Mr. Parker was ill from grip and could not be seen. Mr. McConkey requested that the communication be delivered to Mr. Parker if Mr. Parker could not be disturbed.

Later, a Republican reporter sent up his card, asking for a statement from Mr. Parker in regard to the letter from Mayor Wells. Mrs. Parker replied that she was not sure her husband would read the letter before morning, as he was not at all well. At 9 o'clock another call was made at the Parker home, and a note was sent up to Mr. Parker, explaining that the public would expect to see something from him concerning the communication and that a statement would suffice. Again Mr. Parker sent word that Mr. Parker was not in a condition to consider the matter.

CLARENCE F. PARKER'S
COMMENT ON THE LETTER.

Clarence F. Parker, son of the defeated candidate and his companion throughout the campaign, read the letter and expressed the opinion that Mayor Wells was "making a grandstand play."

"I am unable to say what my father will do in answer to Mr. Wells' letter," said he, "but I know that he has been opposed to entering into a contest personally, although he has been urged to do so by the Republican managers. His principal reason for taking this stand is that a contest would open up a controversy which would put the city in a much worse light in the eyes of the world than it already is, and I agree with my father that the present status of affairs is bad enough."

"So far as the financial proposition from Mr. Wells is concerned, I consider it a grandstand play. I do not think that portion of the letter unwritten no one could take exception to it."

In the course of his remarks Mr. Parker also said that Mr. Wells "may yet get what he wants," and that "he also called on to deliver the goods." He was of the opinion that even if his father were able to consider the matter at once he

MAYOR WELLS TO MR. PARKER.

Executive Department,
Mayor's Office,
St. Louis, April 18, 1901.

Mr. George W. Parker, City:

Dear Sir—Since the election on the 2nd of April partisan newspapers have been making the statement that my election was effected by the grossest fraud at the polls. You also have made such statements in interviews, but I have refrained from saying anything on the subject, hoping that you would institute a judicial investigation so that, through the courts, the truth or falsity of the charges could be shown. By your letter to the St. Louis Republican Club published in the Globe-Democrat of April 18, you advised me and others that you do not intend making any contest, and use the following language: "Speaking for myself as the defeated candidate for Mayor, I beg to say that I have been unable to get my own consent to the use of my name in such contest. No intelligent citizen doubts the proposition that the recent election was carried for the Democratic candidate by the grossest fraud backed up by brutal force, but having been counted out I am opposed personally to renewing the strife in a contest."

If you are sincerely of the opinion which you here express I do not see how you can consistently, in view of your duty to the party which nominated you, and to the people of the City of St. Louis, refuse to prove the truth of your statement.

During the campaign I stated that I did not want, nor would I hold, the office of Mayor if I were not lawfully elected thereto. I now repeat that statement. The Republican newspapers of this city have charged that gigantic frauds were committed in this election. You have twice made the same statement. These statements are either true or false. If true, they ought to be immediately demonstrated; if false, such statements ought to cease and you and others who have made them ought to retract what you have said. In my opinion no greater misfortune can come to any community than that it should lose confidence in the honesty of its election.

If you will institute such a contest immediately I will enter appearance, waive every technicality, and co-operate with you in every proper way to have the ballot boxes opened, the votes counted, and the truth ascertained. I provided that we shall each of us deposit in the National Bank of Commerce in this city the sum of \$10,000 in trust, to be disposed of as follows: In the event that you are successful in your contest in the courts and are declared to be lawfully elected Mayor of this city, the \$10,000 deposited by you shall be immediately repaid to you, and the \$10,000 deposited by me shall be paid to you, to be used in the payment of your expenses in the contest. If you are unsuccessful and the courts shall hold that I am the lawfully elected Mayor of this city, my deposit of \$10,000 shall be repaid to me, but I do not ask for your \$10,000. I will pay all my own expenses and the \$10,000 deposited by you shall be paid to the Saturday and Sunday Hospital Collection Association for distribution amongst the hospitals in the proportion in which its last annual collection was disbursed.

Since both your interview and your letter were published, and since the matter is of great public concern, I have sent to the newspapers a copy of this communication, which will appear in to-morrow morning's issues.

Respectfully,

W. Wells

would not give an answer until after he

had deliberated upon it.

Mayor Wells stated that the letter ex-

plains itself and that there was nothing

to be added.

He takes the position that the cries of

fraud which have been raised since the

election and the charge that he was elected

through fraud are not justified, unless the

persons who make these general accusa-

tions show their good faith by taking proper

steps to prove the truth of their state-

ments. Throughout the campaign the bur-

den of the speeches by Mr. Parker and the

other candidates and speakers was that the

Democrats relied upon illegal methods to

elect their ticket. Since the election no

steps have been taken by the Republicans

to institute a contest to prove the truth

or falsity of these charges. It is Mr.

Wells' desire to aid Mr. Parker, financial-

ly and in every other way, to prevent his

proceeding in order that the facts may be

known.

Last Tuesday Mr. Parker wrote a letter

to President R. C. Day of the St. Louis

Republican Club declining to allow his

name to be used in a contest. This was

after many prominent Republicans had

urged him to contest.

John D. Johnson, a leader in the St. Louis

Republican Club, said Thursday afternoon

that he saw no prospect of a contest, nam-

ely as Mr. Parker had decided not to per-

mit his name to be used.

"Mr. Parker's decision precludes the pos-

sibility of a contest on the majority,"

said Mr. Johnson, "and I do not think a

contest on any other basis would accom-

plish what we wish; that is, to show up

the fraud."

The election law provides that notices of

a contest must be served within twenty

days after the official count of the votes

cast at the election is completed. The

Election Commissioners completed the count

on the office of Mayor on April 7. This allows

Mr. Parker until April 27 to give notice.

HURRY AND BUSTLE
IN BEAUMONT FIELDS.Everybody Appears to Be Working
Under High Pressure in the
Oil Districts.

UNABLE TO GET MACHINERY.

Contractors Offered Premiums to
Make Haste—Fortunes Be-
ing Made by the
Saloons.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Dallas, Tex., April 18.—Dallas machinery houses have been so rushed with orders for well-boring machinery for the Beaumont oil district that the supply of such machinery has become exhausted. The factories are being pressed for more goods.

The head of a Dallas machinery house Thursday said that a Beaumont firm desired to purchase an outfit weighing 30,000 pounds. The Dallas house was unable to supply it, and the customer, by wire, ordered the machinery from a house in a northern city, instructing that it be shipped direct to Beaumont by express, as time was too valuable to trust to shipment by freight.

A Dallas contractor was given the contract Thursday to bore a well. He was in doubt as to when the work could be done. The men employing him asked: "How much will you agree to rush the work for?" The contractor placed his price at \$3,000.

"I'll give you \$12,000 if you will get it in six days," said the oil man, and the contract was closed on that basis.

Ex-Mayor Traynor of Dallas returned from Beaumont Thursday. He says he never before witnessed such "booms" in oil, in sporting, and in drinking.

"It's a gambler's paradise," he explained, "and a saloon beats a gold mine. I saw an Eastern man offer the keeper of an ordinary Beaumont saloon \$20,000 cash, \$1,000 a month for five years, all in advance—if he would turn over his lease to him. The saloonkeeper declined the offer with the remark: 'I can make that much profit in one year if things keep up as they are now going.'"

Another Gusher Struck.

Private telegram from Beaumont announced that "Gusher No. 6" was struck about 6 o'clock Thursday evening, and is a well of great force and capacity. The oil is rushing over the top of the derrick.

The new strike in the Heywood well, which has been eagerly watched for during the last week, and from which wonderful results have been expected and seem to be realized.

INJURED BY COLD WEATHER.

Apples and Peaches Killed and
Strawberries Nipped by Frost.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Wednesday night, a heavy frost struck Vanburen, Ark., April 18.—A heavy frost, considerably, the crop will be two weeks late. A telegram received here from north of the Boston Mountains said that there had been heavy snow and sleet in that region, and it was thought all apples and peaches had been killed. This is in Washington County, forty miles from here.

VOTES A MILLION
FOR NEW CAPITOL.Lower Branch of Arkansas Assem-
bly Approves Appropriation to
Be Raised by a Tax.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Little Rock, Ark., April 18.—The committee bill providing for the completion of the new State Capitol occupied the attention of the House for several hours Thursday.

The committee, through Chairman J. I. Moore of Phillips, presented several amendments, which were adopted. The most important was the mode of raising funds to complete the work. The original committee bill called for a bond issue of \$1,000,000. The amendment proposed Thursday and adopted provides for a direct appropriation of \$1,000,000, and in order to raise the sum a tax of one cent on each dollar of taxable property is levied; the tax to be levied and collected for the year 1901 and annually thereafter until the Capitol building is completed. In addition the net proceeds of all lands, except school land, sold by the Land Commissioner, and the fees of the land office for two years ending March 31, 1903, shall be used and applied toward the Capitol fund. The bill also placed at the disposal of the committee \$500,000, the surplus fund of the general sinking fund, collected under an act passed in 1899.

The House, by a large majority, placed the appointment of the Commissioners in the hands of the Governor. They are to be confirmed by the joint Assembly. The fees of the architect were fixed at 4 per cent on \$1,000,000. Geo. R. Mann is mentioned in the bill as the architect. His plans were accepted two years ago. The bill was amended to order to its final passage Friday.

The Senate disposed of several House bills Thursday by indefinitely postponing them. Among them were:

Making it a misdemeanor to fish on Sun-

day; relating to the payment of duty by

married women; requiring duplicate cop-

ies of complaints or bills in all cases

brought in the Circuit Court.

The Senate passed the Whitthorne bill,

making a deficiency appropriation of \$40,000

for the present session of the Legislature.

The insane asylum appropriation bill was

amended in the House, striking out the

\$100,000 for a branch insane asylum, and

inserting \$50,000 for a branch insane asylum.

The Senate passed the bill proposing

an amendment to the Constitution provid-

ing for quadrennial elections was defeated.

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"WAR HAS BROUGHT US
TO THE VERGE OF RUIN."

—SIR MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH.

Statement Made by Sir Hicks-
Beach to the British
Parliament.

A BIG BOND ISSUE NEEDED.

"Most Disastrous Exchequer
Statement Ever Made,"
Responded Harcourt.HOW ENGLAND WILL GET
THE SINEWS OF WAR.

Tax on:
Molasses, 2s per cwt.
West Indian molasses, 2s per cwt.
Glucose, 1s 8d per cwt.
Exported coal, 1s per cwt.
Refined sugar, 4s 2d per cwt.
Increase of tax on:
Incomes from 1s to 1s 2d per pound.
Total increased tax:
£11,000,000, or \$55,000,000.
Total obtained from coal tax:
£2,100,000, or \$10,500,000.
Bond issue:
£20,000,000, or \$100,000,000.

London, April 18.—Sir Michael Hicks-

Beach, Chancellor of the British Ex-

chequer, in presenting the financial budget

to the House of Commons Thursday,

pointed a dark picture of Britain's financial

condition, attributable principally to the

South African war.

He recommended additional taxes on a number of products, principally coal, sugar, molasses and glucose, and an increase in the income tax, together with a bond issue of £20,000,000. The concluding words of his speech were:

"As to obtaining contributions from the Transvaal, Sir David Barbour's reports are

OMINOUS PICTURE PAINTED BY HICKS-BEACH,
THE CHANCELLOR OF THE BRITISH EXCHEQUER.

"I think the House will see that the war has brought the country to the verge of ruin."

"The small war has cost £151,000,000, double the cost of the Crimean War."

"In our time no Chancellor of the Exchequer has had a more difficult task than mine."

"During the last five years we have been invariably able to congratulate the House on a general increase in the prosperity of the country, but the year 1900, especially the last six months, showed symptoms of a change. Our foreign trade during the year considerably increased, but in value rather than in volume."

"I will never be responsible for the fatal policy of paying the whole cost of the war out of loans, without putting a reasonable amount on the taxpayers of the day."

"Our ordinary expenditure would not permit of the remittance of the additional taxation proposed for war purposes last year. It, therefore, becomes necessary to put our expenditure on a broader basis. The country has reached a point where it is necessary to widen the scope of taxation."

not encouraging at present. I think the

House will see that the war has brought

the country to the verge of ruin. (Opposition

cheers greeted this remark.)

"This can no longer be considered. The

small war has cost £151,000,000, double the

cost of the Crimean war. There was £51-

£00,000 of the unfunded debt redeemable

within the next ten years.

"I have tried to put before the House a

true account of our finances for the present

and immediate future. In our time no

Chancellor of the Exchequer has had so

difficult a task, and none has had a more

indulgent audience. I have not laid pro-

posals before the House with the view of

gaining transient popularity, but I have

endeavored to establish a principle of con-

tribution by the whole community to the

burdens of the state."

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach concluded

amidst loud applause.

Sir William Vernon-Harcourt com-

plimented the Chancellor of the Exchequer

on the ability he had shown, declaring that

his speech was characterized by honesty,

a quality very much lacking in the conduct

of the war, in telling the House and the

country the truth in regard to the position.

"The budget," continued Sir William

Vernon-Harcourt, "was but a chapter in

the disastrous incident of the war. It was

proposed to borrow altogether £151,000,000

more, four times as much as was borrowed

for the Crimean War.

WHEN BUFFALO BILL OPENS HIS PROPOSED COWBOY TRAINING SCHOOL.
ASSASSINATION DUE TO
A POLITICAL QUARREL.Dr. Scruggs's Life Had Been Threatened—
Police Arrest Wealthy Dairyman—
Opponent in Politics.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Memphis, Tenn., April 18.—Sensational developments have been made in the last twenty-four hours in the Doctor Hal Scruggs assassination case, and strong evidence is being accumulated which will undoubtedly uncover a plot with a number of persons implicated.

Already J. W. Skinner, a wealthy dairyman, and a carpenter named John Phillips are behind the bars held for an investigation, and other equally as sensational arrests will follow.

Thursday afternoon Chief of Police Richards and Sheriff Blackwell, were closeted with Skinner for several hours. As a result of the conference, the Sheriff has denied all persons admittance to Skinner's apartments, not even allowing the latter's wife or lawyer to interview him.

In addition, the police are trying to locate two race horse men, who have been stopping at the Skinner house. They are missing, and it is believed they can throw some light on the tragedy.

Thursday the police found Skinner's pistol

with two empty shells in the chambers, the

weapon having been recently fired. His

shoes are said to fit the tracks leading from

the scene of the assassination.

His Life Was Threatened.

W. O. Phillips, a member of the School Board, of which the dead man was a member, says that Doctor Scruggs told him the day before he was killed that he had been warned by a friend to look out for Skinner, as the latter had threatened to take his life.

Putting all these facts together, the police say they believe Skinner either fired the fatal shot or laid the plot for the assassination, just which has not yet developed.

John Phillips, the carpenter, may not be implicated.

It is known in the country that Doctor Scruggs and Skinner have not been friends since last fall, when they were on opposing sides during a political campaign.

Doctor Scruggs and his friends defeated a ticket for Magistrate and School Directors put in the field and supported by Skinner and his friends. In this fight, Skinner, who was a candidate for School Director, was badly beaten by the physician.

Shortly after the election the opposition

commenced making trouble for the new School Directors, the children of Skinner and others absenting themselves without written excuses from their parents, as required by the school regulations. The children were expelled pending the receipt of written excuses. This brought on a fight between Skinner and the directors, and at that time the community has been in a turmoil. The police expect to make more arrests Saturday.

ASKS FOR PROOF OF DEATH.

Murder Case, Once Dismal the

Reinstated—Trickery Suspected

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Portageville, Mo., April 18.—A young man John Gunn, former Marshal of

Portageville, killed a man, and was arrested for murder. Last September the

case was dismissed on the representation that Gunn was dead.

Last Saturday the case was re-opened on the docket for the reason that the death of the defendant was denied.

Proof of his death was required.

This case has nothing to do with a

legendary case which was reported by the

press as a case of a man who was

beaten by the police, and was

again arrested.

DESPERADOES ARE
FIRMLY INTRENCHED.Governor Beckham Refuses to
Send State Troops to Do
Sheriff's Posse's Work.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Frankfort, Ky., April 18.—County Judge Blair of Letcher County arrived here on Wednesday morning from Whitesburg to make a personal request of Governor Beckham that troops be sent to his county to capture the band of desperadoes there who are charged with the murder of Jimmie Hall and her son last fall.

The Governor declined to send the troops to do the duty of a Sheriff's posse in the mountains, realizing the uselessness of trying to move such a body secretly to capture the fugitives.

Judge Blair said the fugitives are located about ten miles out from Whitesburg in the mountains. The Reynolds faction occupies a brick house, 15x15 feet, the home of Mrs. Nerva Reynolds, a relative, at the head of Millstone Creek, and near the scene of the encounter of last Thursday, when three of Detective Wright's posse were killed.

There are windows on all sides of the house. By night lanterns are placed at intervals for a distance of a hundred yards of the house, making a night attack hazardous.

The Reynoldses are said to be well supplied with ammunition, and, owing to their position, it is believed they can hold out against a large force.

CLOWN STUDYING
FOR THE PULPIT.He Says if Preachers Were Less
Solemn-Faced the World
Would Be Better.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Chicago, Ill., April 18.—The visitors at Ringling's circus Sunday afternoon missed the familiar figure of William Marks, one of their foremost clowns, and sighed for his antics, but Marks did not appear. He had engaged to lead the service at a Sunday school in Woodlawn.

Marks is studying for the ministry. He is merely working as a clown that he may earn enough money to defray the expense of taking a course in a theological college.

"I don't see anything out of the way," said Marks